The Southern PATRIOT

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Aubrey Williams Backs Civil Rights

"I am a Southerner, born and reared in Alabama. I have long since come to the conclusion that the only way we will ever be able to give those members of the Negro race who are qualified a chance to secure decent employment is through a law, and I have had to reluctantly come to the conclusion that no Southern state will pass such a law."

Thus spoke Aubrey Williams, Alabama publisher and president of the SCEF, before the platform committee of the Democratic Party at its convention in Chicago.

The SCEF was the lone Southern organization speaking out for an uncompromising civil rights plank.

"As for resting our case on the expectation that the personal idealism of the white people will bring about fair play," he said, "I fear this is a pious hope with little prospect of it doing very much for these sinned against citizens.

"This violation of the rights of these people should be treated the same as violation of any rights. Laws should be enacted, designed to put an end to such violations. These violations are just as real as going into a man's home and stealing his property. For when a person spends years in acquiring a skill and is then arbitrarily denied the right to use that skill for his and his family's benefit, some one is stealing from that person just as surely as if they had picked his pocket.

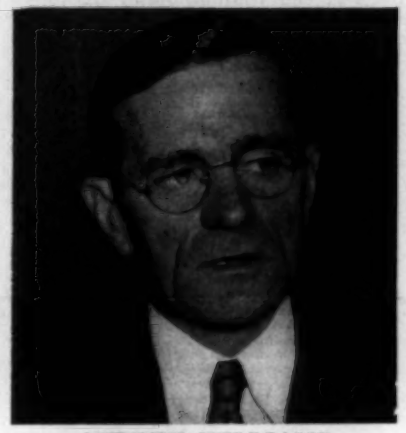
"A federal law is the answer. It is the only answer. That is the proper way. That is what we have government for in the first place."

Mr. Williams' stand drew high praise from I. F. Stone, columnist for the N.Y. Daily Compass. Stone commented:

"Williams did something last week no other white Southern liberal had the nerve to do. He was the only white Southerner who turned up in Chicago to support an uncompromising civil rights plank in the Democratic platform.

"I was in Montgomery two years ago . . . I heard two dozen Southern liberals, at a private get-together one night, flagellate their consciences on the Negro issue. To compromise is to acquiesce in evil. To stand clear and clean of prejudice is to isolate oneself.

"Aubrey Williams seemed to be the one man in Montgomery who had chosen the hard way. His appearance in Chicago was part of a consistent and hazardous pattern. Williams is living what he believes."



AUBREY WILLIAMS
. . . the hard way

VITAL PAMPHLET GOES TO PRESS

"The Untouchables", a 36-page multicolor pamphlet illustrated by the incomparable Ben Shahn, is now on the presses.

Based on research by the SCEF, it dramatically portrays the tragic results of race-conscious hospital care and suggests solutions. The hard facts and the vigorous art work in this booklet make it a document that should be in the hands of all who seek a healthier democracy.

Supporters of the SCEF will receive individual copies of "The Untouchables" as soon as they can be mailed. We hope to distribute some 25,000 copies among hospital administrators, doctors and other professional groups, although printing and mailing costs will be high.

We would greatly appreciate receiving from our readers the names of persons who would be interested in receiving this pamphlet and also any contributions toward defraying its cost.

The August issue of the **Modern Hosptial**, professional journal for hospital administrators, contains an article by Dr. James A. Dombrowski reporting the results of the SCEF poll of Southern hospital administrators. (This poll was reported in the March and April issues of the **Southern Patriot.**)

Ala. Governor Guts Anti-Bias School Text

Should all discussion of racial and religious intolerance be suppressed in the school rooms of a Southern state? Are the aims of education served if the historical roots of anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism and race-hatred are denied to students?

Governor Gordon Persons of Alabama apparently thinks so. Here is how he forced the gutting of a previously approved textbook, "The Challenge to Democracy," because it dared mention "segregation" and "FEPC." (The book was written by Theodore P. Blaich and Joseph C. Baumgartner, published by Harper & Brothers, and distributed as a text by McGraw-Hill Company. It has gone three editions.)

On May 22 the Alabama State Board of Education was called into session at Montgomery to discuss criticisms of the book. A letter from Governor Persons was read to the group. He stated that the book had been called to his attention by the Birmingham Real Estate Board. (The board, according to press stories, had objected to "socialistic" passages.) And he declared: "However, I was amazed to note that no objection was raised . . . to Chapter 28. This chapter is devoted almost entirely to pointing out why segregation should be abolished and praising the FEPC . . . and unless this entire chapter is removed from the book . . . it would be my suggestion that the book itself be deleted as an acceptable textbook for use in Alabama schools."

Mr. Charles G. Dobbins, a member of the board, objected that omission of the chapter would be a reflection on the state textbook committee and the board of education, and would be an admission "that we in Alabama did not believe that minority groups should share equally with all others in the American way of life" and that all information in the text was based on historical facts which he felt should not be withheld from school students.

But the other members of the board sided with the governor. The representative of McGraw-Hill agreed to delete the offending chapter; and "The Challenge of Democracy" was adopted

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Proposed Youth Conference Draws Wide Sponsorship

The social future of the South is settled. Segregation is dying; a courageous decision on the Clarendon case by the Supreme Court could administer the *coup de grace*. But even if the judicial hand flinches at delivering this blow, not all the windbags in woolhats in the world can sustain for long the punctured "separate but equal" myth.

The social future of the South does not belong to the Byrnes clique or the Ku Klux Klan. It is the heritage and the hazard of the young people of the South. Yet who gives them a voice?

The governor of Alabama guts their texts of vital information. Men long past school age plot to keep campuses "lily-white." Florida terrorists fight the future with dynamite.

Seldom is the youth of the region consulted. Even less frequently do young people of like spirit from the various Southern states have the opportunity to meet and exchange views on racial relations.

Last spring SCEF representatives met with a group of youth leaders at Nashville to discuss this problem. It was decided that a south-wide youth conference be projected, to which, from all realms of social, collegiate, religious and industrial endeavor, young people and their organizational leaders would be invited.

Out of such an assembly it is hoped that friendships and ideas will be generated which may inspire associations and projects within the various states. But if nothing else, the conference will call to public attention the rights and interests of a long-ignored group.

To encourage the broadest possible representation, outstanding young people and social leaders from all over the region have agreed to serve as sponsors. The list now numbers nearly 100 and is growing.

The date and place of the conference have not yet been set, although probably it will be held some time next fall. Readers interested in participating are invited to write the SCEF.

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N. O. Park Snubs Star Girl Athlete

Like any other American athlete, Miss Audrey Patterson got her chance to compete for a berth on the Olympic team. But little thanks is due the officialdom of her native New Orleans.

At the 1948 Olympics Miss Patterson raced third in the 200 meters. And at the Paris International Meet held shortly thereafter she set new French records in the 100 and 200 meters events.

This year she began training for the Helsinki games. A collection was taken to pay her way to the trials set for June in Connecticut. The mayor of New Orleans was one of the contributors.

But as much as she needed travel money she also needed a place to work out. Neither of the city's two Negro universities had a cinder track. The path at the city's one Negro playground was more mud than cinders. She applied for the use of the course at City Park Stadium.

The administrators of this city and state supported park had only recently yielded to a federal court decision opening certain park facilities to Negroes on two days of each week. They took their time answering her request. Two weeks before she was to enter competition, E. P. LaBorde, the general manager, stated that because of other activities scheduled at the stadium she could not use the track.

When this decision was made public the SCEF joined with others in protesting it. The resultant publicity did not move the park officials. But Loyola University announced itself honored to make its entire athletic plant available to Miss Patterson, so she finally got a decent place to train.

She did rather well at the trials, finishing third in both of the sprints she entered. Ordinarily this would have entitled her to a berth on the team but a curtailed budget forced the committee to limit its selections to the first two finishers.

The Southern PATRIOT

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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Sewanee Faculty Will Resign If Seminary Stays Jim-Crow

When the board of trustees of the University of the South rejected a recommendation that Negro students be admitted to the school of theology, their action was boldly and firmly challenged. The entire faculty of the seminary threatened to resign unless this decision were reversed by June, 1953.

The Episcopal Synod of the Fourth District, representing 10 states, had recommended last fall that the church-owned Tennessee institution drop racial barriers in its theological school. But the board voted in June that "the happines and mutual good will of both races will not now be served by the action requested by the Synod." Fear of violating state laws and consideration for "the whole life of the University community which is located on an isolated domain" were cited in the resolution.

In their leter to the board, eight high-ranking faculty members deplored "the trustees' failure to state any Christian principle involved, with the consequent reduction of the whole issue to the level of expendiency only." They said "the position taken seems to us untenable in the light of Christian ethics and of the teaching of the Anglican Communion . . . It compromises us as priests and teachers. . ."

They requested a reconsideration of the question by the board, asserting that "if our request is ignored . . . we are without exception prepared to resign our positions and terminate our connections with the university, in June 1953."

SCEF President Aubrey Williams, writing in support of the theological faculty, quoted the statement by the 1950 Presbyterian Synod of Alabama: "Segregation is living on borrowed time. With the constitution being considerably more active than the conscience of late, the church might have to adjust its morality to measure up to the mores of the state."

In acknowledging this letter, Dean G. S. Bruton, Dean of Administration at Sewanee, gave assurance that there would be a new hearing on this matter.

Texas Jr. College Integrates; Other States Have First Graduates

School days, school days, good old Golden Rule days!

* * *

The day of the Golden Rule hasn't quite dawned on Southern classrooms, but a considerable few are beginning to see the light.

The Del Mar Junior College, operated by the city of Corpus Christi, Texas, is opening its doors to Negro applicants this fall. A convincing demonstration of the inferiority of Del Mar's Jim Crow counterpart led the trustees to approve this move unanimously.

Of Texas' 33 public-supported junior colleges three are now integrated. The NAACP predicts the integration of them all "within the next year."

* * *

With a harried eye on the Clarendon case, the New Orleans school board has rigged up a grandiose scheme to perpetrate inequality of educational opportunity for its Negro pupils.

A great Negro "educational village" is being planned, with facilities for some 2000 students. It would have all the most modern equipment. It would have everything — but accessability. Pupils would have to be brought by bus from every section of the city, necessitating considerable travel time and curtailing extra-curricular activities.

"The development of new methods here may prove fundamental in the alleviation of a national quandary," the board architect proclaimed.

But a Negro spokesman called the idea "as old as slavery," pointing out how bitter would be the complaints of white citizens if their children were schooled in compounds on the edge of the city.

* * *

June graduations were notable in several Southern institutions.

Mrs. Edith Irby Jones received her diploma from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, the first Negro ever to do so. The board of trustees courageously defied the governor in admitting her in 1948 after she had placed high on a pre-entrance exam.

Mrs. Jones will also set another precedent by interning at the university hospital.

Charles E. Harrington's graduate degree in education maked the first fruit of Louisiana State University's court-enforced policy of integrated professional training.

The principal in one of the historic

(Continued on Page 4.)

From Here to Eternity?

Death is the great leveller—except on the obituary page of the Arkansas Gazette. This Little Rock daily uses the following format to list mortalities:

LITTLE ROCK DEATHS_____
OTHER DEATHS _____
NEGRO DEATHS _____

Does the editor think that's the way the roll will be called Up Yonder?

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Recently I had to go to the New York Hospital for four days for a minor difficulty and to my surprise and considerable interest I found that the floor nurse who was waiting for me was a Negro. Also there were other Negro nurses popping in and out of the room as well as white ones and white and Negro nurses aids. The other patient sharing a room with me was a Negro first grade teacher. No sign of a Negro doctor anywhere but we'll hope that will come in a few years.

My Negro roommate, like myself, had no special nurse and was cared for by the floor nurses and I was fascinated to watch a very pretty white nurse with an unmistakable Southern accent give her a bath. There was a good human and cheerful atmosphere in the room and it was just a matter of one trained human being helping another to get well. Hospitals can be wonderful places for the overcoming of racial prejudice.

Such things can happen more easily in New York, but, as a result of the work you are doing, I hope it won't be long before they will also happen in the South.

S. M.,
New York City

* * *

To the Editor:

"The Philosophy of Peace" by Prof. Somerville is THE book clarifying peace issues. Einstein and Mann said of it: "Masterful. Something like a miracle."

You would enthuse and boost for the great good it can do. Sells for $3; through me, $1.50. Would do even better for your group and make up the difference out of my pocket. All prompted by my yearning for peace and social justice in this anguished world.

May I hear from you? Cordially,
Dr. Ralph R. Sackley
6214 N. Winthrop Ave.
Chicago 40, Ill.